

[Ostrander House]

[?]

AUG 22 1938 #19 FIELD NOTES

(Information given by a merchant of Paint Rock)

(OSTRANDER HOUSE)

The story of the hanging In the Ostrander house is all “hooey” - probably started by someone putting the rope there just as a joke.

The wiring system was something unusual and no one knows why the Ostranders went to all this expense in order that they would know every time any one entered a gate on the ranch, and just what particular gate was opened.

There are records describing this tract of land, in the University of Texas Library, telling the exact size, etc., of the ranch. # 19 [no 19 ?]

AUG 22 1938

FIELD NOTES

Taken on Interviews

(Information given by a local Justice of the Peace)

OSTRANDER HOUSE

The third story of the Ostrander house was a hide-out for a gang of out-laws. That was why the two rooms in the third story were so arranged that they could not be entered

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except by a long ladder and a trap door. The Ostranders were not out-laws themselves, but they were friends of the out-law gang and harbored them in the house. This gang was probably mixed up with Ostrander in his crooked business.

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AUG 22 1938

FIELD NOTES

Taken on Interviews

(This was given by an old surveyor of Tom Green Co.)

(Ostrander Ranch)

The sheriff of Concho County probably tipped Ostrander off that the law was on his trail - that is the general opinion. Politics are a funny business - the bigger reputation anyone has the more crooked things become when they are mixed up with politics - better look at those things through a microscope, then turn them over and look at the other side, too - politics, mixed up with big corporations like the Ostrander - Loomis Land and Cattle Company.

This corporation owned 42 sections of land and had about 80 sections leased, some was school land and some was leased from individuals.

The wiring system, flashing a signal when a [gate?] was entered, was perhaps to prevent depredations on the ranch. When a signal was flashed, a cowboy was sent to investigate, and see if any of the cattle were being stolen, etc.

Ostrander was using the [mails?] to defraud - misrepresenting things through the mail, selling stock in this company through misrepresentation. This was a federal offense

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and was probably brought up in Federal Court - maybe in Dallas - maybe in [Tyler?]. The bankruptcy proceedings were probably filed here in Tom Green County. The ranch covered parts of Concho and Tom Green counties. It extended as near San Angelo as Mullen (now Veribest, about 10 miles east of San Angelo).

Ostrander knew nothing about the cattle business. He was 2 probably from England, originally; had big ideas but knew nothing about running a ranch. Other big ranchers who made a success of their business, hired experienced foremen to run their ranches, but Ostrander did not do this, so he made a failure of his business.

[A.A.?] DeBerry, who was cashier of the bank in San Angelo, was appointed trustee for the bonding corporation who owned the bonds. He took over all the property and asked for a foreclosure. This foreclosure took place right here in San Angelo. The suit was filed as: [A. A.?] DeBerry vs Ostrander and Loomis Land and Live Stock Company.

This Ostrander Loomis Land and Live Stock Company had headquarters in New Jersey. If the tax roll for 1894 or 1895 is consulted, it will show the amount of acreage owned by this corporation and the amount of taxes assessed.